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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **TWO SUTTER CITY MEN CHARGED WITH USING THREATS OF FORCE TO PREVENT BLACK STUDENTS FROM ATTENDING PUBLIC SCHOOL**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott and FBI Special Agent in Charge Drew Parenti announced today that JARED ORESTE GIAMPAOLI, 20, and STEVEN FOSTER-LITTLE, 19, of Sutter, California were each charged on September 27, 2005 with interference with federally protected rights and aiding and abetting in violation of Section 245 of Title 18 of the United States Code. Among other things, section 245 safeguards the rights of all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, and national origin to enroll and to attend a public school or a public college. As required by federal law, the Associate Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division approved the filing of charges as being in the public interest and necessary to serve substantial justice.

GIAMPAOLI's and FOSTER-LITTLE's civil rights cases have been assigned to United States Magistrate Judge Peter A. Nowinski. The defendants are scheduled for arraignment on the charges and detention proceedings on September 29, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

The cases are the product of extensive investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Sutter County Sheriff's Department. Federal authorities launched their investigation at the request of Sutter County Sheriff Jim Denney.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who is prosecuting the cases, GIAMPAOLI and FOSTER-LITTLE are charged with using vandalism and other threats of force to intimidate and interfere with black students who were attending a Sutter city public high school. Specifically, the federal charges allege that on September 11, 2004, GIAMPAOLI and FOSTER-LITTLE painted a 20 foot square swastika and "white power" symbols at the only entrance to Butte View High School as threats of force against black students and to intimidate black students from attending the high school.

Said United States Attorney Scott, "The sort of threatening conduct at issue in this case cannot and will not be tolerated. It is nothing short of shocking to see such acts in our region in 2005."

"Here in Sutter County we have a zero tolerance for those individuals who would commit crimes of hate against anyone based upon their race. Clearly, we are sending the message that issues of hate have no place in our community. I commend the U. S. Attorney's Office and the FBI for their assistance and diligence in this investigation," stated Sutter County Sheriff Denney.

Under the misdemeanor charges, each defendant faces up to one year of federal

incarceration, a one-year term of supervised release, restitution, and a fine of up to \$100,000.

The United States Attorney's Office noted that the charges are only accusations, and that the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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